



MIDDLEWICH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

HEALTH REPORT FOR 1943.

To the Chairman and Members of the Middlewich Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the following statement of essential matters affecting the Public Health of the Town during the year 1943.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	1,956 acres.
Population - Registrar-General's latest estimate of population.. ..	6,097.
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1943)	1,751.
Rateable value	£26,402.
Sum represented by a penny rate	£104.2.4d.

The following extracts from vital statistics of the year relate to net births and deaths after correction for inward and outward transfers by the Registrar-General.

		Total	M.	F.	
Live Births	(Legitimate	119	58	61)	Birth rate per 1,000 of
	(Illegitimate	8	6	2)	the estimated resident
					population .. 20.82.
Stillbirths	(Legitimate	5	3	2)	Rate per 1,000 total
	(Illegitimate	1	-	1)	(live and still)
					births 45.11.
Deaths		66	33	33	Death rate per 1,000 of
					the estimated resident
					population .. 10.82.

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List):-

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis	1.	7.51.
No. 30 Other puerperal causes	-	-
Total	<u>1.</u>	<u>7.51.</u>

Death rate of infants under one year of age:-

All infants per 1,000 live births	23.62.
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	25.21.
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	-
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	9.
" " Measles (all ages)	-
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	-
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	-

CAUSES OF DEATHS - 1943.

(Taken from the Registrar-General's Tables).

	M.	F.	Total.
1. Typhoid & Paratyphoid	-	-	-
2. Cerebro-Spinal Fever	-	-	-
3. Scarlet Fever	-	-	-
4. Whooping Cough	-	-	-
5. Diphtheria	-	-	-
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	-	1
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis	-	-	-
8. Syphilitic Diseases	-	-	-
9. Influenza	2	3	5
10. Measles	-	-	-
11. Ac:polio-myel: & polio-enceph:	-	-	-
12. Ac: inf: enceph:	-	-	-
13. Cancer of b:cav: & oesoph: (M).	-	-	-
uterus (F).	-	-	-
14. Cancer of stomach or duodenum	-	-	-
15. Cancer of Breast	-	2	2
16. Cancer of all other sites	6	1	7
17. Diabetes	-	1	1
18. Intra-cran: vasc: lesions	-	8	8
19. Heart Diseases	10	8	18
20. Other Diseases of Circulatory System	1	1	2
21. Bronchitis	1	3	4
22. Pneumonia	1	1	2
23. Other Respiratory Diseases	-	-	-
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	-	-	-
25. Diarrhoea under 2 years	-	-	-
26. Appendicitis	-	-	-
27. Other Digestive Diseases	1	-	1
28. Nephritis	1	-	1
29. Puerperal & post-abortion: sepsis	-	1	1
30. Other maternal causes	-	-	-
31. Premature Birth	-	-	-
32. Congenital Debility & Malformations	2	1	3
33. Suicide	-	-	-
34. Road Traffic Accidents	1	-	1
35. Other Violent Causes	2	-	2
36. All other causes	4	3	7
Totals	33	33	66

SECTION B. - GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

There are no new or special provisions to report upon this year. The Cleansing Centre services referred to in my 1942 report have been fully utilised and appreciated by cases of vermin infestation amongst our own Urban residents, Evacuees and residents from adjoining County Districts. Early in 1943 the useful practice was commenced of giving preventive treatment to other members of a household in which Scabies has already occurred even though such home contacts had no visible signs of infection. No formal action under the Scabies Order was called for during the year, it being found that persuasion alone was sufficient to ensure the attendance at the Cleansing Centres of both sufferers from, and contacts to cases of, vermin infestation.

SECTION C. - SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water - The satisfactory quality of the water supply has been maintained and the Analyst's report on one of three satisfactory samples reads:- "A wholesome and potable sterile water of a very high degree of organic purity". The chlorination plant provided in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health in 1941 has been in regular use.

All the houses in the area are furnished with a direct piped service from the Council's Waterworks. There are no stand-pipes or private wells etc. in the District.

Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal - I have nothing to report upon under this section.

Closet Accommodation - There are only a limited number of pails in the built-up parts of the town, although 60 or so remain in the outlying parts of the area.

Public Cleansing - The routine work of refuse collection and disposal and the cleansing of pail closets etc. proceeded satisfactorily throughout the year.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Statement of Inspections made and Notices issued.

Nature of Inspections made	Number	Number of Notices Served		Results of Services of Notices	
		Statutory	Informal	Notice complied with	Remaining in hand
1. Dwelling Houses	225	-	15	14	1
2. Tents, Vans & Sheds	23	-	10	10	-
3. Courts, Yards and Passages	10	-	4	4	-
4. Sanitary Conveniences	1,320	-	98	95	3
5. Ashbins, Ashpits & Disposal	1,740	-	95	85	10
6. House Drainage	10	-	9	8	1
7. Ditches & Watercourses	20	-	2	2	-
8. Keeping of Animals	53	-	15	14	1
9. Slaughterhouses	15	-	-	-	-
10. Inspection of Food	381	-	-	-	-
11. Piggeries	27	-	4	4	-
12. Dairies & Milkshops	120	-	16	16	-
13. Factories & Workshops	40	-	5	5	-
14. Bakehouses	53	-	4	4	-
15. Offensive Trades	4	-	-	-	-
16. Overcrowding	80	-	-	-	-
17. Infectious Diseases etc.	37	-	10	10	-
TOTALS	4,153	-	287	271	16

FACTORIES INSPECTION.

Premises	No. of inspections	No. of written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories with mechanical power	10	-	-
Factories without mechanical power	15	-	-
Other Premises	15	-	-
Totals	40	-	-

All factories were kept free of nuisance, emergency exits kept clear; all factories and workshops use the Town's water for drinking and washing purposes. Five warnings given as to emergency escape doors.

SECTION D. - HOUSING.

Only the most urgent repairs have been required in view of the difficulty in getting this work done.

SECTION E. - INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

- (a) Milk Supply - During the year 10 samples of milk being retailed in the area were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester, with the following results:-

2	samples of ungraded milk	..	.. fairly satisfactory.
4	" " " "	..	.. unsatisfactory.
2	" Depot milk which had been submitted to an unofficial form of heat treatment ..	..	.. unsatisfactory.
1	sample pasteurised milk taken from an approved plant..	..	.. satisfactory.
1	" of the same pasteurised milk after being bottled by a local retailer ..	..	.. unsatisfactory.

I referred in my last year's report to the installation of an officially approved pasteurising plant at a local Milk Depot. This is now working and produces a satisfactory milk.

- (b) Meat and other Foods - No slaughtering of animals has taken place in the area. Supervision has been maintained on retailers and only in a few instances has it been necessary for food to be destroyed.

SECTION F.PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

- (1) Apart from the rather high incidence of Scarlet Fever occurring for the most part amongst school children during the last quarter of the year, the prevalence of Infectious Diseases was quite low. The one case of Diphtheria notified had protective treatment over two years previously. This child made a very satisfactory and prompt recovery from the disease in Hospital.

Incidence of Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis, during the year 1943.

Diseases	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Diphtheria	1	1	-
Scarlet Fever	35	35	-
Pneumonia	6	-	2
Erysipelas	3	-	-
Measles	8	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	1

Specimens submitted for Bacteriological Examination.

Examined for	Number submitted	Result	
		Positive	Negative
Diphtheria Bacilli	22	1	21
Other Organisms	4	-	4

(2) TUBERCULOSIS.

The table below details the ages of both new cases and deaths from both forms of Tuberculosis.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1943.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5 years	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25 "	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
25 - 35 "	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45 "	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65 "	-	3	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	3	4	2	1	1	-	-	-

Number of patients on register at 31st December, 1942 - 50.

Number of patients on register at 31st December, 1943 - 60.

(3) DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The Scheme which was commenced in 1941 jointly with the other three Mid-Cheshire Local Authorities was continued and by the end of the year 1943 the total number of children known to have had protective treatment in the Urban area was 1,369. The actual percentages of protected children by the end of the year 1943 were:-

under 5 years 62.4%.
between 5 - 15 years 83.7%.

Set out below is a table recording the progress of the Immunisation Scheme, the numbers dealt with in the various age groups, etc. since the Scheme first started in 1941. This table takes the form of that recommended by the Ministry of Health.

Age in years on 31st December of the corresponding year.	Persons inoculated each year from 1941 - 1943.			
	1941	1942	1943	
0 -	1	2	2	Total inoculated aged under five years on 31st Dec. 1943:- 280
1 -	17	51	54	
2 -	32	33	28	
3 -	35	16	27	
4 -	30	15	17	
5 -	45	29	14	Total inoculated aged 5 - 14 years on 31st Dec. 1943:- 797.
6 -	72	28	15	
7 -	67	12	3	
8 -	68	10	1	
9 -	79	14	2	
10 -	86	10	1	Total aged 15 years and over:- 176.
11 -	65	12	3	
12 -	64	9	-	
13 -	86	6	2	
14 -	73	3	-	
15 and over	14	-	-	Grand total 1941- 1943:- 1,253
Total each year	834	250	169	
Children known to have had treatment privately or elsewhere:-				116
GRAND TOTAL				1,369

(4) SCABIES AND VERMINOUS INFESTATION.

The arrangements made jointly with the other three Mid-Cheshire Local Authorities in 1942 worked very satisfactorily during the year under review and it is gratifying to record a reduction in 1943 of 18% in the numbers of cases of vermin infestation. The following sets out the 1942 and 1943 figures of patients dealt with:-

	1942.		1943.	
Cases of Scabies	153)		104)	
Cases of Pediculosis	6	total	-	total
Cases of Scabies & Impetigo	17)	176.	41)	145.
Number of households involved	76		74	

At the time of writing, mid-1944, it is apparent that the incidence of Scabies is still decreasing.

(5) VENEREAL DISEASES.

The suggestions of the Ministry of Health's circular 2805, received in April 1943, stressing the need for greater publicity on the subject of Venereal Diseases were acted upon so far as this Authority is responsible for this service.

The practice of home disinfection in cases of Infectious Diseases (including Tuberculosis) and the eradication of vermin was continued during the year. All the Schools were disinfected at least once during the year and 3 houses were disinfested for the purpose of eradicating bugs.

I would like to say in closing this report how much I appreciate the help I have received from the Members of the Council and Officials in dealing with the various matters which have arisen during the year.

Yours faithfully,

W. S. SLATER, M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

September, 1944.